

**UNOFFICIAL**

**CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**AUGUST 16, 2007**

**MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, August 16, 2007 at the McCourt Middle School, 45 Highland Avenue, Cumberland, was called to order at 8:10 p.m., by Chairman Frederic C. Crowley, with the following present:**

**Frederic C. Crowley, Chairman, Robert Thibodeau, Vice Chair, Karen MacBeth, Clerk, Lisa Beaulieu, Donald J. Costa, W. David Wagner, Earl T. Wood**

**Also Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent; Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Wagner.**

**II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE amending the agenda by moving Item XV. Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5 and XI. New Business; C. Approval of Health Care Contract to the next items on the agenda.**

### **III. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5**

#### **A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)**

##### **1. CTA/ICSE**

#### **B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)**

##### **1. CTA/ICSE**

##### **2. Central Administrators' Contracts**

##### **3. Non-Contractual Salaries**

##### **4. Potential Litigation**

**Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve adjourning to Executive Session. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the motion. The Chair noted he and Mr. Costa would be recusing themselves. Open Session recessed at 8:13 p.m.**

**Open Session reconvened at 8:57 p.m. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was VOTED 5-0 TO APPROVE sealing the Executive Session minutes, with Mr. Crowley and Mr. Costa having been recused.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**August 16, 2007/Minutes -2-**

#### **IV. New Business**

**C. Approval of Health Care Contract - Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to table. A second was provided by Mr. Wagner. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE tabling, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Ms. MacBeth; RECUSED: Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley.**

**V. Chairperson's Report - The Chair reported receiving letters from the Hales and Cotter families and asked the Superintendent to respond. He thanked Dr. Morelle for responding to Tim Coombs' letter. Mr. Crowley noted he was upset with the Finance Committee agenda and there was no action on his call. The Superintendent made a point of order that the Chair had recused himself and she was taking direction from the Vice Chairman.**

#### **VI. Comments from the Public**

**A. Public Comments - The Chair asked the public to speak about health care at the second Public Comment Section in order to get through the meeting, noting he and Mr. Costa would have to recuse themselves. Cynthia Smalley commented on Special Education and stated she had an issue with department leadership and the cost of the Special Education Program Audit since there were cuts in the program. She noted she has suggested hiring a grant writer. Kathy Lambert commented on the cuts to the kindergarten program and the consequences. Robert Thurston spoke on equity and adequacy of**

resources, comparing per pupil spending with Lincoln.

## **VII. Reports of Standing Committees**

### **A. Finance Committee**

**1. Payment of Bills - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE payment of invoices, six registers from the 06-07 FY, in the amount of \$258,516.33.**

**Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve payment of invoices, seven registers from 07-08 FY, in the amount of \$456,248.95. Mr. Costa provided a second. Mr. Costa questioned payment when there is no budget. Mr. Wagner noted they were paying workers comp. The Superintendent explained that technically the budget was reconciled with a 1.2 million dollar shortfall and they may or may not need to take other action, and the committee can feel confident to pay these bills. On a roll call voted, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the motion with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Beaulieu, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa.**

**2. Approval of Contracts for Printed Material - Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the bid for printing services in the amount of \$16,118.46 from B & M of Cumberland and Old Colony of Whitinsville. Mr. Wagner provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**August 16, 2007/Minutes -3-**

**3. Preschool Tuition Rates - Mr. Wagner reported this was tabled in the Finance Subcommittee meeting.**

**4. Approval of RFP for Special Education Program Audit - Mr. Thibodeau made a motion to approve the RFP for Special Education Program Audit. Mr. Wagner provided a second. Mr. Wagner reported there is no known cost at this time; it is only an RFP for quotes. Ms. MacBeth commented a figure of \$25,000 had been discussed in the subcommittee meeting and feels this is an expense that isn't needed. On a roll call vote, the motion FAILED 4-3 with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Mr. Wood, Mr. Costa, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Crowley.**

## **VIII. Consent Agenda**

**A. Police Reports - June, July**

**A. Truancy Report - June**

**B. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Open Session: 6/14/07, 6/28/07, 7/19/07**

**C. Facilities Report - June, July**

**D. Enrollment Report - June**

**On a motion b Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE removing the Police Report, with Mr. Wagner voting against.**

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was**

**UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE removing the Enrollment Report.**

**On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda.**

**A. Police Report - June, July - Mr. Costa commented that he found the break ins alarming, especially that a student was found throwing computers out a window. The Superintendent reported that construction workers and Mr. Calvert saw the student and he was apprehended. There was significant damage to three classrooms. Mr. Costa noted windows and doors have been left open. Dr. Morelle reported that security cameras will be going up and new doors will be installed. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the report.**

**B. Enrollment Report - Mr. Wood asked Dr. Morelle and Dr. Carney when the committee would be updated on the Kindergarten and Preschool enrollment. The Superintendent explained that they are working on getting students enrolled in the home schools and once they have completed that will give them a report. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the report.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**August 16, 2007/Minutes -4-**

## **IX. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Executive Session: 5/10/07**

**B. Executive Session: 6/14/07**

**C. Executive Session: 7/19/07, 7/30/07**

**Ms. MacBeth made a motion to table because she hadn't read them. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley; NAY: Mr. Wood, Ms. Beaulieu.**

## **X. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent presented the following:**

**A. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the resignation of Robert Autieri, Industrial Technical Studies Teacher, at Cumberland High School, effective 7/26/2007.**

**B. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the resignation of Craig Conover, Guidance Counselor at JJM Cumberland Hill School, effective 7/26/2007, with Mr. Wood voting against.**

**C. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the resignation of Daniel Pedro, Music Teacher at Joseph L. McCourt Middle School, effective 7/30/2007, with Mr. Wood voting against.**

**D. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Parental Leave of**

**Absence of Laurie Bollin, Math Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective for the 2007-2008 school year.**

**E. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner and Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the FMLA Parental Leave of Melissa McDowell, Grade 2 Teacher at JJM Cumberland Hill School, effective for the 2007-2008 school year.**

**F. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Military Leave of Absence of Derek Davenport, Social Studies Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 9/04/2007 through 12/09/2007 with a return date of 12/10/2007. Mr. Wagner thanked Mr. Davenport for his service and offered God speed.**

**The Superintendent requested an amendment to the dates of 9/4/2007 to 12/9/2008. On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE.**

**G. On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Melissa Kusinitz, English Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 9/4/2007. (FTE: 1.0; Step n/a; Lane: 1; Co-pay n/a; budgeted).**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**August 16, 2007/Minutes -5-**



**H. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the appointment of Mark Primiano, English Teacher at Cumberland High School, effective 9/4/2007. (FTE: 1.0; Step n/a; Lane: 1; Co-pay: n/a; budgeted). The Superintendent noted the certification is in process.**

## **XI. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - Mr. Wood reported that Dimeo is working overtime to complete the construction at the high school. The parking lot lighting will be up and the parking lot ready by September. They are waiting for the delivery of the pc's. The next meeting will be the 27th. The 3.5 Building Committee met last week and they are working with the gas company to relocate a gas line at Cumberland Hill. An old oil tank has been emptied and will be removed. Work continues inside with the former library being converted to a classroom. The steel should be going up soon at Ashton. The next meeting of that building committee will be the 29th. Mr. Wood requested the security alarms monitoring be referred to the Property Subcommittee.**

**B. Recalls - The Superintendent presented the following:**

**1. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Thibodeau, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE rescinding the action taken by the school committee on February 22, 2007 not to renew the employment of the following for the 2007-2008 school year:**

**Christopher Fernandes recall to the CTA Job Pool, effective**

**8/17/2007**

**Nancy Gillardi recall to the CTA Job Pool, effective 8/17/2007**

**Paul Lombardi recall to the CTA Job Pool, effective 8/17/2007**

**Jennifer Marvel recall to the CTA Job Pool, effective 8/17/2007**

**Kristen Noke recall to the CTA Job Pool, effective 8/17/2007**

**Kerry Saltzman recall to the CTA Job Pool, effective 8/17/2007**

**Valery Curley recall to the position of .5 Kindergarten Teacher at  
Community School, effective 8/17/2007**

**Bethany Duffy recall to the position of Grade 2 Teacher at Ashton  
School, effective 8/17/2007**

**Heather Hamilton recall to the position of Grade 5 Teacher at JJM  
Cumberland Hill School, effective 8/17/2007**

**Jessica Macedo recall to the position of Grade 5 Teacher at BF  
Norton, effective 8/17/2007**

**Lindy Iannucci recall to the position of ESL Educator at BF Norton  
School, effective 8/17/2007**

**Jamie Quigley recall to the position of ESL Educator at BF Norton  
School, effective 8/17/2007**

**Carmella Valcourt recall to the position of ESL Educator at BF  
Norton  
School, effective 8/17/2007**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**August 18, 2007/Minutes -6-**

**Ms. Crowley requested receiving a list of recalls in advance in the future and questioned the recall of Kerry Saltzman. The Superintendent explained Ms. Saltzman has been hired for a one-year position and offered to discuss this with the CTA at a later date.**

**IX. Approval of Minutes, Revisited - On a motion by Ms. MacBeth, and a second by Ms. Beaulieu, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE removing from the table.**

**A. Executive Session: 5/10/07 - On a motion by Ms. Beaulieu, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the minutes, with Mr. Wood voting against.**

**B. Executive Session: 6/14/07 - On a motion by Mr. Wagner, and a second by Ms. MacBeth, it was VOTED 6-1 TO APPROVE the minutes, with Mr. Wood voting against.**

**C. Executive Session: 7/19/07, 7/30/07 - Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes. A second was provided by Thibodeau. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-1 TO APPROVE the minutes, with the following voting AYE: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Thibodeau, Ms. MacBeth, Ms. Beaulieu; NAY: Mr. Wood; RECUSED: Mr. Costa, Mr. Crowley.**

## **XII. New Business**

**A. Home School Instruction Requests 2007-08 School Year - Dr. Carney reported there are 14 requests for home schooling, with 13 renewals. Mr. Costa made a motion to approve. A second was provided by Ms. MacBeth. On a roll call vote, it was UNANIMOUSLY**

**VOTED TO APPROVE.**

**B. Revision of Transportation Policy - Mr. Costa reported the revisions were reviewed by the Rules & Regulations Subcommittee with the Superintendent, Police Chief, and Traffic Officer. The recommendation was to keep the walking distance established in 1987 of one quarter mile for grades 1-5 and a half mile for grades 6-8. The only change is increasing from one-and-a-half mile to two miles for grades 9-12. Mr. Rotella stated the policy does not have to be read since it is a revision to the policy. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the revision. Mr. Wood provided a second. It was noted the police did not make any recommendations.**

**Ms. MacBeth made a motion to table until they receive a recommendation from the police department. The Chair noted there was a letter from the police that they cannot make any recommendations. Mr. Thibodeau provided a second to table. It was VOTED 4-3 TO APPROVE tabling, with Mr. Wood, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Beaulieu voting against. The Superintendent noted they will now be putting the old bus route in place and this policy will be delayed for the school year.**

**Cumberland School Committee**

**August 16, 2007/Minutes -7-**

**Dr. Morelle commented that the committee was very direct about decisions about the budget and this decision will have a direct impact on that budget; she will have to look deeper at programs and the committee will have to act upon. The Chair asked if anyone on the prevailing side wished to make another recommendation and no one responded.**

**XIII. Superintendent's Report - The Superintendent noted the business office will be working on the reconciliation of the budget and look for \$50,000 to \$100,000 to be eliminated from the budget. She reported speaking to Mr. MacDonnell of the Northern RI Collaborative about attending a future school committee meeting regarding items of interest. He has been invited to most of the eleven towns that are members and she will try to schedule a meeting with him. Dr. Morelle spoke about an exciting initiative to demonstrate the partnership of schools and families. They will be planning activities for the beginning of the school year and will forward plans to the committee. She welcomed back the teachers that were recalled.**

**XIV. Comments from the Public - Jim McLaughlin thanked Abigail MacBeth for her letter and stated he will be doing some fund raising for the football team. Christopher Scott commented that it was his class at the high school that was broken into and his personal computer that was thrown at the window. Heidi Jarvis commented on the budget but stated she was uncomfortable waiting to hear which teachers her kids will have. The transportation issue has been on the**

table for some time and felt most high school kids drive to school. Jackie Crowley asked when the committee hired attorney Cassel and at what cost. Rod McGarry agreed with Ms. Crowley about the cost for Mr. Cassel. He then commented on the issue of health care. He asked the committee to honor the contract.

XV. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported the football players will be selling a card for fund raising and the cheerleaders will also be holding fund raisers. Their first game will be September 9th against St. Rays. Ms. MacBeth noted it is not her intent to sabotage the budget, but she was looking for a map showing what students will be walking and where sidewalks are located to make sure of student safety. She also noted they don't know the impact to the budget; in order to have a savings buses must be eliminated.

**Cumberland School Committee**

**August 16, 2007/Minutes -8-**

XVI. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Thibodeau, and a second by Mr. Wagner, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** adjourning Open Session at 10:22 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**

**Subject to approval by the School Committee**